



NIT-241

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: M. NISHIDA et al.

Serial No.: 09/940,924

Filed: August 29, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING CONSUMER GOODS  
USED IN AN ANALYER

Group: 3627

Examiner: J. A. Fischetti

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 3, 2007

Sir:

The following is in response to the February 8, 2007, Office Action in which the Examiner alleges that restriction under 35 USC §121 is required and requests Applicants to elect one of the alleged inventions.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect without traverse Invention I, Claims 22-24, drawn to a method of managing reagents, classified in class 70-5, subclass 28 for further prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, an Office Action examining claims 22-24 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (NIP-241).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gene W. Stockman", written over a horizontal line.

Gene W. Stockman  
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